



MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Legislative Subcommittee of the ICOC

FROM: C. Scott Tocher, Counsel to the Chair

RE: “Regenerative Medicine Promotion Act of 2011” – HR 1862

DATE: June 2, 2011

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Reps. Brian Bilbray (R-Calif.) and Diana DeGette (D-Colo.) on May 9 introduced the Regenerative Medicine Promotion Act of 2011 (H.R. 1862) “to launch a national strategy to support regenerative medicine and accelerate the discovery of cures for many diseases.” The bill would:

- require the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to issue a report identifying all ongoing federal programs and activities regarding regenerative medicine;
- require the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to establish an interagency Regenerative Medicine Coordinating Council to prepare “a national strategy to support research into regenerative medicine and the development of drugs, biological products, medical devices, and biomaterials for use in regenerative medicine” and “to prepare a plan specifying priorities for research into regenerative medicine;”
- specifically authorize the HHS secretary to make grants to fund basic or preclinical research into regenerative medicine as well as grants for related drug development; and
- include regenerative medicine research as one of the possible funding areas under the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Cures Acceleration Network and under the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)’s regulatory research initiative.

The bill does not authorize any additional funding, however. The bill’s language makes no reference to “stem cells,” either adult or embryonic, but refers instead to “regenerative medicine.”

